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BENDIS

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THE NEW AVENGERS



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THE TRUST PART FOUR PREVIOUSLY...

After the superhuman civil war, Luke Cage, Spider-Man, Wolverine and Spider-Woman went underground rather than register their identities with the government. Together with Clint Barton—now wearing the costume of Ronin—Doctor Strange, Iron Fist, and Maya Lopez, the deaf woman also known as Echo, they operate out of Doctor Strange's Sanctum Sanctorum.

Recently, during a fight in Japan, Elektra, the leader of the Hand, was killed. Upon her death, her body reverted into its true form: that of a shape-shifting Skrull, sending the Avengers into a tailspin of mistrust. While on a hunt for more information about the possible alien invasion, Wolverine discovers the plans of a mysterious villain called the Hood who is about to launch an attack on Avengers Tower, home of Tony Stark's Mighty Avengers.



Meanwhile, after a mysterious virus is dropped to Earth from a satellite, most of the citizens of New York City have turned into symbiotes. Led by Ms. Marvel and Iron Man, the Mighty Avengers enter into a battle that they may not win, especially when they have begun to transform as well...

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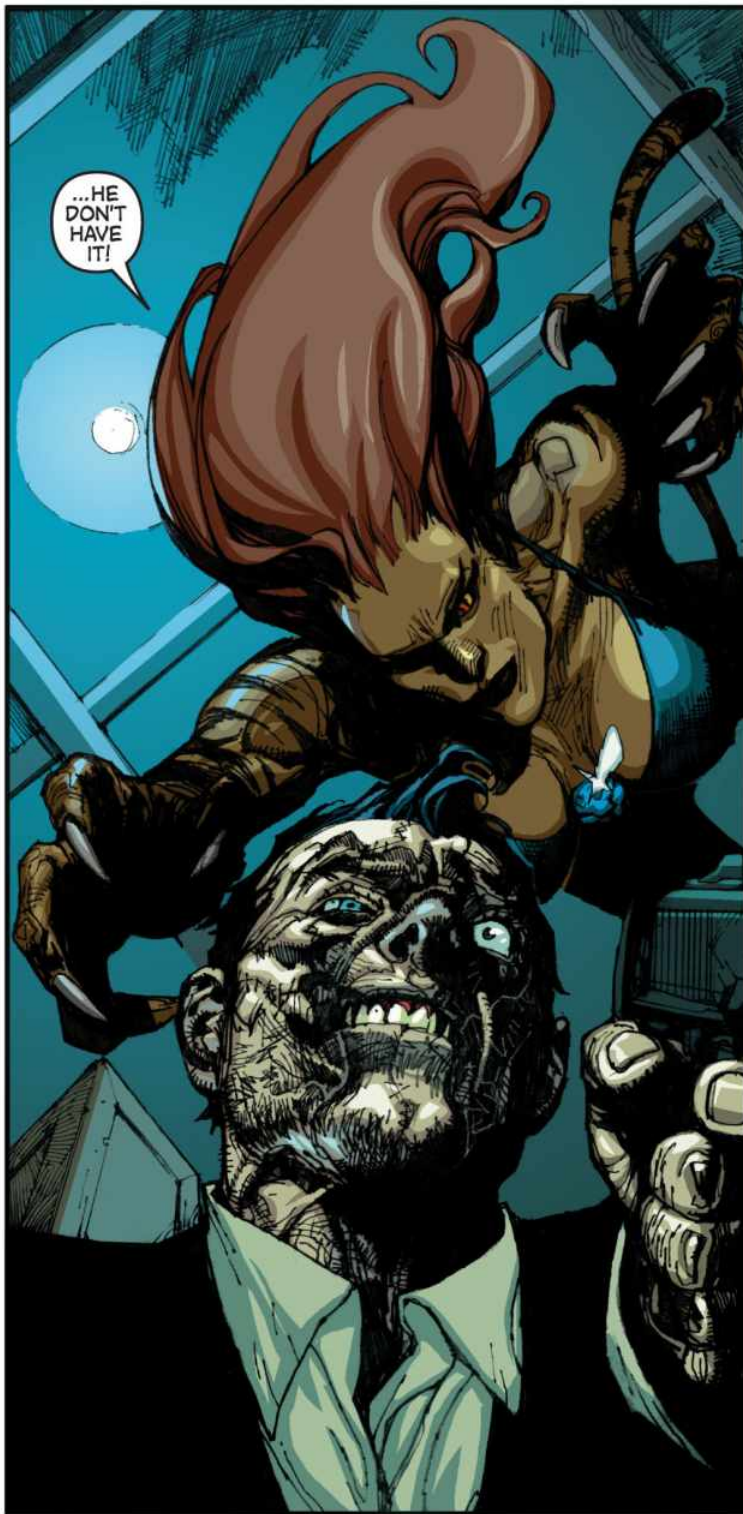
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SEVERAL DAYS
AGO...

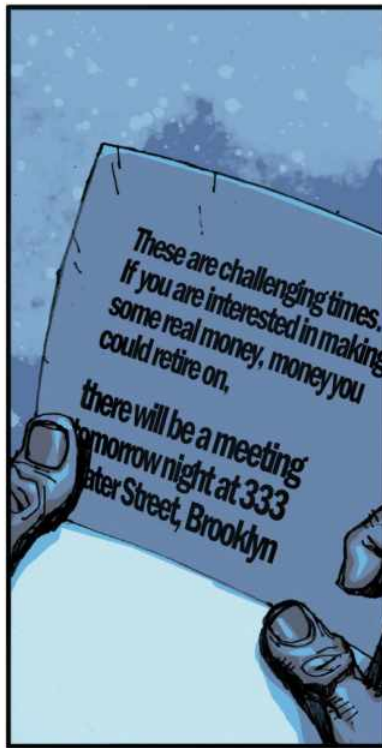
OPEN
THE
SAFE!











I'M PROUD
OF YOU GUYS
FOR SHOWING
UP.

AND I KNOW
YOU'RE HERE
BECAUSE YOU'RE
FRUSTRATED WITH
WHAT YOU HAVE
VERSUS WHAT YOU
KNOW YOU
DESERVE.



I KNOW THAT
FEELING.

AND FOR
YOU, FOR US,
THAT FEELING
IS RIGHT.







OH...
...I
THOUGHT
OF IT.
OPEN YOUR
ENVELOPES.



25
LARGE. SEED
MONEY.

GET
YOURSELVES
BACK ON YOUR
FEET IN
STYLE.

DO WHAT YOU
HAVE TO DO TO GET
YOURSELF UP AND
RUNNING.

UPGRADE
YOUR TECH, GET
A CREW, GET A PLACE
TO SLEEP, PAY YOUR
BACK CHILD SUPPORT,
GET A GOOD MEAL...



WHATEVER
IT IS YOU NEED
TO BE YOU...DO
THAT THING.

THEN
YOU COME TO
ME AND TELL
ME WHAT YOU
NEED AND I'LL
SEND YOU OUT
TO DO THAT FOR
WHICH YOU ARE
PERFECTLY
SUITED.

AND DURING ALL
OF THIS--IF YOU'RE HAVING
TROUBLE WITH A HERO? WE'LL
TAKE CARE OF THAT.



HOW?



THE WAY
IT SHOULD
HAVE **ALWAYS**
BEEN DONE.

THE WAY
THE TRIAD
DOES IT.

SOMEONE
DOES
SOMETHING
YOU DON'T
WANT...

...YOU
KILL THEIR
FAMILY.

YOU
DESTROY THEM
SPIRITUALLY.

THEN...
THEY'LL DO
WHAT YOU
WANT.



IF IT WERE THAT
EASY--
--WE'D
HAVE DONE IT
YEARS AGO.



THAT WAS THEN.

NOW THINGS ARE DIFFERENT.

JEEZ!



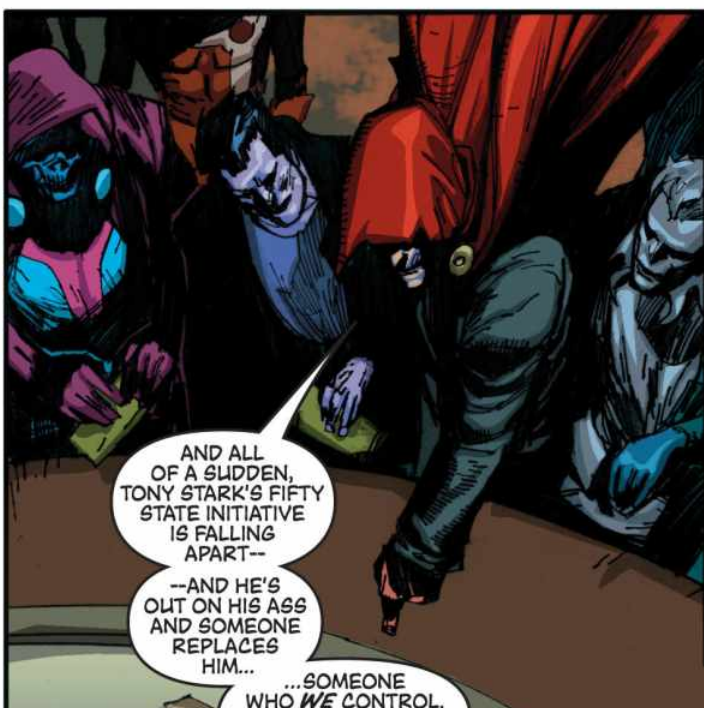
IMAGINE IT. ONE BY ONE. WE GET THEM WHERE THEY LIVE.

ALL OF THEM. NO ONE IS SAFE.

NOT THE ICONS, NOT THE LIP-AND-COMERS. WE *SQUEEZE* THEM. ALL OF THEM.

WE MAKE *THEM* FEAR FOR THEIR MOMMIES AND DADDIES AND AUNTS AND UNCLES.

THEY BUCKLE. THEY FALL APART. THEY *DISORGANIZE* AND WE *ORGANIZE*.



AND ALL OF A SUDDEN, TONY STARK'S FIFTY STATE INITIATIVE IS FALLING APART--

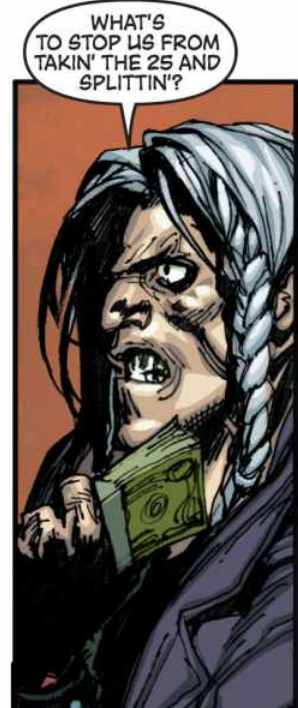
--AND HE'S OUT ON HIS ASS AND SOMEONE REPLACES HIM...

...SOMEONE WHO *WE* CONTROL.



AND TONY STARK HAS TO SELL HIS ARMOR FOR PARTS.

AND WE'RE THERE TO BUY IT.



WHAT'S TO STOP US FROM TAKIN' THE 25 AND SPLITTIN'?



HA!

WELL,
IF YOU THINK
YOUR LIFE IS ONLY
WORTH 25 G'S...
THEN YOU GO
AHEAD.



THREATENING
ME?

BLACKOUT,
OF THE LILIN.

AFTER ALL THE
CRAP YOU'VE BEEN THROUGH
IN YOUR LIFE...YOU'RE REALLY
GOING TO THROW DOWN WITH
THE FIRST PERSON WHO'S
GIVING YOU MONEY?



WHO'S *OFFERED* YOU
OPPORTUNITY?

WHEN WILL
YOU STOP SELF-
DESTRUCTING?

I'M
OFFERING YOU
A CHANCE TO MAKE
SOMETHING.

THIS IS
SEED MONEY.
THIS IS
NOTHING.



THE MONEY
I'M TALKING ABOUT
IS THE KIND OF
MONEY YOU CAN BUY
AN ISLAND WITH
AND LIVE ON.



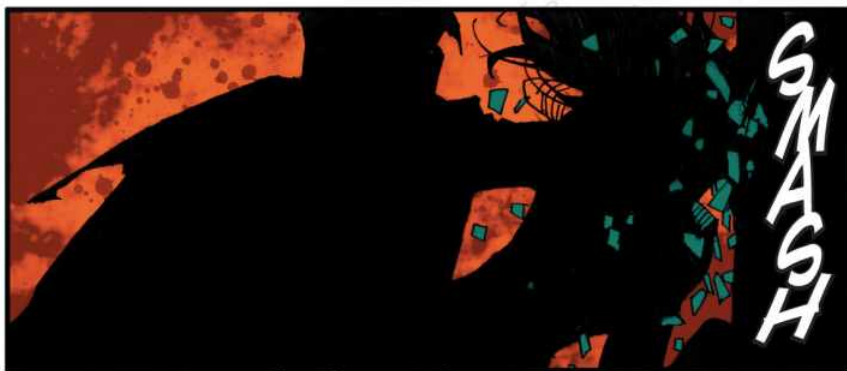
THE KIND
OF POWER *I'M*
TALKING ABOUT IS
THE KIND FROM THE
DAYS OF MURDER, INC.
AFTER WORLD
WAR TWO.

YOU'LL BE
UNTOUCHABLE.

ARE YOU
SEEING IT? CAN
YOU SEE THE
FUTURE?









AAA/EE!



AAA/EE!
AAA/EE!

QUIET NOW,
YOU DON'T WANT
TO WAKE THE
NEIGHBORS.



BEEP
BOOP
BOP

JANET GARSON.
45 PENNY
LANE, MADISON,
WISCONSIN.

NNNN--

THAT'S
YOUR MOMMY.
YOU LOVE YOUR
MOMMY. SHE
EVEN LOVES
YOU--

NNNGG--

--EVEN
THOUGH YOU
TURNED INTO THIS
HORRIBLE-SMELLING
CAT PERSON.



SAY HI TO
MOMMY.

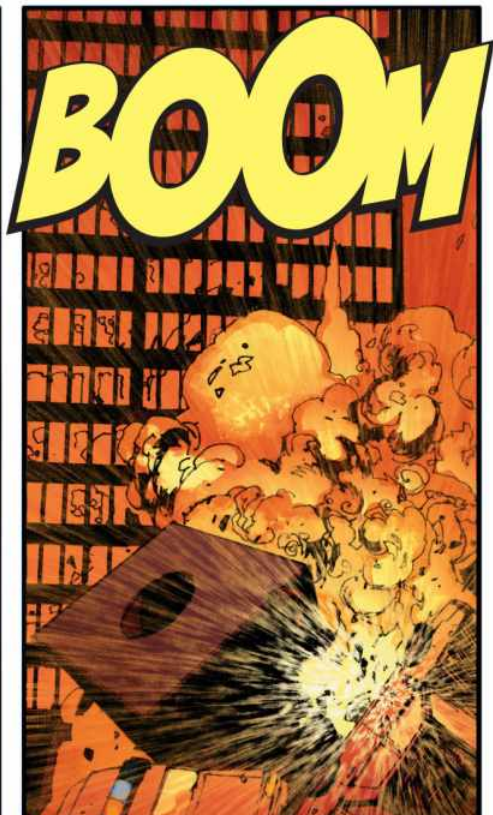
GGKK.

HELLO?
HELLO,
GREER?











12.7
MILLION AND
CHANGE.

BUT WE
TRASHED THE
DEATHLOK.

YEAH.
DEATHLOK GO
BYE-BYE.



OH WELL.
HERE, FOR YOU,
CURTIS...

1.3 MILLION.

WHAT?

WHAT?

TEN
PERCENT OFF
THE TOP. FINDER'S
FEE.

UH,
WHAT DID
I FIND?



THAT'S
HOW IT WORKS
NOW.

YOU GOT
US DEATHLOK,
DEATHLOK GOT US
THIS. YOU GET YOUR
PIECE. EVERYONE
GETS THEIR
PIECE.

LAUNDER
IT.

YEAH,
YEAH, I
GOT A
GUY.

GLEE
GLEE

HUH.



HELLO?
WHAT?

WHAT?

IS
THERE
A TV IN
HERE?

